Technology Activity: Safe and Responsible Internet Use

**1) Based on the information provided in the websites, what internet safety rules would you teach upper elementary and middle school students? Consider issues of privacy, inappropriate content, safety, and digital etiquette.**

I feel that it is important to teach these students about stranger danger on the internet. It is really important to teach them to maintain their privacy when using the internet and to never meet people whom they have encountered on the internet. It is important to teach them about age appropriate sites and to only use the internet when there is a responsible adult around to help them navigate it. It is really important for them to understand that they should not open e-mails or respond to requests from people that they do not know. If they are unsure about whether or not they should be on a certain website, it is important to teach them to ask.

**2) What safety procedures would you teach older students about social networking? Consider issues of privacy, inappropriate content, and digital etiquette.**

It is really important to teach older students about consulting their privacy settings to make sure that their social networking sites aren’t open for public access. It is also really important to teach them not to post identifying information in words or images about where they live or where they are going. Just because you have your settings secure doesn’t mean that they can’t be hacked or given access by another person. It is important to teach students to never give out their passwords, avoid cyber bullying, and be aware of their surroundings.

**3) What safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about cyber bullying? Include definition of cyber bullying, how to prevent bullying and what the victim should do.**

Cyber bullying is bullying through the web and technology applications and can include physical threats and rumors. It is important to have a dialogue with students about dangers, encourage reporting of bullying, and teach students that bullying has serious ramifications.

**4) What safety procedures would you teach older students about sexting? Consider definition of sexting, possible consequences for the person who sends the sexual message, and how to report sexually inappropriate content.**

Sexting is the exchange of sexual conversation or pictures through text messages. Sexting is illegal and the student can be charged with child pornography if the images are of underage students and they could also get in trouble if they are over age and send this information to a minor. It is important that the students know that it doesn’t take much for sensitive information to make it into wrong hands. It is important for students to report this to adults and or the police.

**5) What safety procedures would you teach middle and high school students about cyber security? Consider the dangers from hackers, viruses, and spyware and precautions students can take to avoid these dangers.**

Students need to understand that once their information is out there it is really hard to take it back. They need to keep their password and private information to themselves. It is important to teach students to not go into websites that they don’t trust and it is important to have a security program and to delete e-mails and requests from people that they do not know.